

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 02508 070448Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 EB-08 AID-05  
INT-05 /130 W

-----091131 071451Z /40

R 061405Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8612  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2508

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, PBORN ET, EG, SU  
SUBJ: NILE RIVER WATERS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2467

SUMMARY: EGYPTIAN DCM IDENTIFIES TWO ETHIOPIAN NILE WATER  
PROJECTS AS BASIS FOR RECENTLY EXPRESSED EGYPTIAN CONCERN  
AND SAYS THAT EGYPT HAD CALLED FOR A JUNE CONFERENCE OF  
NILE RIVER STATES. WE ARE NOT AS CONFIDENT AS EGYPTIANS  
THAT ETHIOPIANS WILL ATTEND. END SUMMARY.

1. EGYPTIAN DCM HANAFY GAVE US FOLLOWING BACKGROUND TO  
RECENT PUBLIC EXCHANGE BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND ETHIOPIAN GOV-  
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ERNMENTS. EGYPT HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION ON TWO DIFFERENT  
ETHIOPIAN PROJECTS RELATED TO NILE WATERS WHICH CAUSE  
THE EGYPTIANS CONCERN. THE FIRST IS AN ETHIOPIAN-  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PROJECT TO DEVELOP AN AGRICULTURAL  
IRRIGATION SCHEME ON THE BARO WENZ RIVER (ONE OF THE  
TRIBUTARIES OF THE NAHR SUBAT WHICH LEADS TO THE WHITE  
NILE). HANAFY TOLD US THAT THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN

BRUSSELS HAD CONFIRMED THIS PROJECT WITH THE EC. IT IS SAID TO BE WELL ADVANCED IN PLANNING. THE SECOND PROJECT IS AN ETHIOPIAN-SOVIET PROJECT, IN THE EARLY DISCUSSION STAGES, FOR BOTH AN IRRIGATION AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME ON A RIVER NEAR LAKE TANA (EXACT RIVER WAS NOT CLEAR). ANY WATERS LOST TO THE NILE THROUGH IRRIGATION PROJECTS DIRECTLY AFFECTS EGYPT AND SUDAN.

2. HANAFY FURTHER TOLD US THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAD SEVERAL MONTHS AGO CALLED FOR A MEETING OF THE NILE RIVER STATES TO DISCUSS USE OF NILE WATERS TO BE HELD IN NAIROBI IN JUNE. THE ETHIOPIANS HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED TO THE EGYPTIAN INVITATION, THOUGH THEY HAVE ASSURED THE EGYPTIANS THEY HAVE NO DISAGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE CONFERENCE IDEA. HANAFY APPEARED OPTIMISTIC THAT THE RECENT PUBLIC EXCHANGE WOULD NOT UNDERMINE THE CONFERENCE AND THAT ON THE CONTRARY IT HAD SERVED TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR A REVIEW OF NILE WATERS. ACCORDING TO INCOMPLETE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, ETHIOPIA AND NILE WATER ISSUES WERE LAST TREATED IN A PAIR OF TREATIES (1902 AND 1906), THE TEXTS OF WHICH VARY SIGNIFICANTLY DEPENDING ON THE LANGUAGE USED (ENGLISH OR AMHARIC). UNLIKE HANAFY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE RECENT ETHIOPIAN-EGYPTIAN EXCHANGE WAS USEFUL AND DOUBT THAT THE PMGSE WILL BE READY AND WILLING

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TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVELY NILE WATERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE GIVEN ITS OTHER MORE PRESSING PREOCCUPATIONS.

MATHERON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RIVERS, PLANNING MEETINGS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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